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The Daily Courant.

Friday, December 28. 1705.

London, December 28.

Finding in the Amsterdam Gazettes of December 29, and January 1, the following summary View of the Progress of the War this Year; and observing it to be drawn up with no less Care and Judgment, than Zeal for the common Cause and Affection for our Nation, we think it well worth communicating to the Publick.

WE are come to an End of the 4th Year of a War, that is at once the most difficult the Allies have had to maintain; and the only Remedy they have left in the imminent Danger with which Europe is threaten'd. While having Spain for an Ally, they employ'd their joyn't Force in the former Wars, to prevent or repel the Evil they fear'd, they found the Weakness of their Efforts prolong'd the Contest; and for want of exerting timely their full Strength, things were brought to that Extremity, that had not Heaven sent a great Revolution in England, it would have been impossible for them to save themselves. But since by Means of a Sham-Peace France became Master of the Monarchy of Spain, 'tis most evident they can hope for no Safety, but from redoubled Efforts favour'd by the Divine Protection. This the Allies have on several Occasions already found; and this ought to excite them to augment their Efforts, and enlarge their Hopes for the future.

What great Obstacles were in their Way, may be judg'd by those they have already got over. The first 3 Years were necessarily employ'd, either in cementing an Alliance more strong than the former, or in driving the Enemy from the Frontiers, and reuniting the Forces he had divided even in the Heart of the Empire, that they might attack him in his Dominions, and afford Assistance to Spain. We have seen, that nothing less than the great and unexpected Success of the Battle of Hochstet was sufficient to that End.

The 4th Year they have begun to reap the Fruits of the former Years Labours, not equally in all Parts, but enough to shew them what they may expect hereafter; if as fast as they gain upon the Enemy and discover his Strength and Weakness, they do not neglect to make the best Use of it.

The last Year left Gibraltar and Verue besieg'd. The taking of the first was of the greatest Importance to France, because it concern'd them to maintain their Credit in Spain, and the Reputation of their Arms by Sea and Land; especially after they had given out that all the Advantage of the Fight off Malaga was on their Side. They were bound to retake that Place cost what it would, were it only to hide the Loss they had receiv'd at Sea. King Philip wrote to the Count de Toulouse, that he wou'd to him the Preservation of the Coasts of Spain, of which he deserv'd to be stil'd the Deliverer; And that he expected greater things from his Services, by the Reduction of Gibraltar, which would be solely due to his Assistance. But the Event was otherwise. The Allies being Masters at Sea, continually succour'd that Place: The Baron de Pointis came into the Bay only to be Witness of the Defeat of his Squadron, and of the Loss of 5 large Men of War, taken or burnt. The Marshal de Telle succeeded no better at Land than the Marquis de Villadarias. The Enemy after 6 Months Toil and fruitless Attacks, were at length forc'd to raise the Siege, by the glorious Defence made by the Prince of Darmstadt: And this bad Success by Land and Sea, hinder'd the Sailing of the Galleons this Year to the West-Indies.

The Siege of Verue succeeded better to France: And indeed they made their greatest Efforts in Piemont, to endeavour to reduce the Duke of Savoy to the Condition of the Elector of Bavaria, before he could be succour'd. Every one knows to what Extremity that Prince was reduc'd, by the Loss of his strongest Places, the Delay and Inferiority of the Succours from Germany, and by the almost unsurmountable Obstacles Prince Eugene had in his way. And yet all these Difficulties seem only to have occur'd, the more to exalt the Glory of those 2 Princes; the one shew'd (as the Queen of England expresses it) a Firmness and Constancy beyond Example amidst extreme Difficulties, and the other a Genius that supply'd all Wants whatever. The long and brave Defence of Verue began to disconcert

the Enemy's Projects. That Place, which was attack'd (as Gibraltar was) in October 1704, did not surrender till March last; nor then till after the Communication with the Camp of Crescentino was cut off, and till the Garrison came to want Provisions. The Duke of Vendome became Master of a Rock cover'd with Rubbish not worth what it cost taking, but worth every thing to the Duke of Savoy, who gain'd invaluable Time by it. While the Enemy were taken up with repairing their shatter'd Forces, he made another Rampart at Chivas, to save Turin from being besieged, till the Imperial Army were in a Condition to make a strong Diversion: But by what Means was that to be brought about? Prince Eugene was surrounded on all sides, oblig'd to cross the Lake of Garda, and open himself a Passage among the Mountains of the Bressan. This the Enemy thought impossible: Yet he not only made his Way through so many Obstacles, but by deceiving the vigilant Enemy possess'd himself of the Posts on the Oglio; and advancing to the Adda, drew them into the Battle of Cassano, which disabled them from besieging Turin. This render'd the Duke of Savoy able not only to maintain himself, but to repulse the Enemy from before Asti: And by the great Things he has done this Year, we may judge what he will do the next, if he be more effectually succour'd. Let it be remember'd the Enemy had certainly compass'd their Designs, had Prince Eugene delay'd the Blow he gave them at Cassano, or had his Royal Highness made a less wonderful Defence.

Germany, which was so happily deliver'd by the Battle of Hochstet, could not this Year furnish the Assistance expected from its Forces being united. The Troubles of the North, and of Hungary, and some Remains of the former Year's Commotions in Bavaria, have retarded and weaken'd their Efforts, especially with respect to Italy. The Empire's being depriv'd of its August Head, was a further Cause of Delay, till all was redress'd and put into Motion by the vigilant Application of the new Emperor. The Duke of Marlborough, to execute on the Moselle the grand Project he had concerted, repair'd thither early, to make a Push that might have depriv'd the Enemy of the Means of doing any thing elsewhere, by putting them under a Necessity to defend their own Country. But when great Things were expected from that side, the Opportunity was lost by some unlook'd for cross Accidents, or Disappointments, in spite of all the Diligence and Precautions of that General. That Design being frustrated, my Lord Duke without hesitating what to do, turn'd his Arms another way. The Enemy made some Advantage of this; they retok Triers, Hombourg, and some other Posts; but could not force the Camp of Lauterbourg, which was maintain'd against the Marshalls de Villars and Marcin, till Prince Lewis of Baden could draw together Forces sufficient to enter their Lines, to take Drusenheim, Haguenau and other Posts, and extend his Quarters into the Enemy's Country; the advanc'd Season not allowing him to recover Hombourg.

In the Netherlands, the Allies stood at first on the Defensive, while their detach'd Forces were on the Expedition to the Moselle. The Enemy on their side, uncertain what pass'd, made no Motion. But being at length inform'd how things went, they flatter'd themselves they should have Time to do something on the Maese, before they could suffer much on the Moselle. Accordingly they laid Siege to Huy and took it, as they did also the Town of Liege, and it was to be fear'd might have made a further Progress and cut off the Communication of the Allies, had not the Diligence of the Duke of Marlborough prevented them. His Return chang'd the Face of Affairs in an Instant; Liege was deliver'd, Huy retaken, and the Enemy forc'd to retreat within their Lines; yet even there were not safe from his Attacks. Their Vigilance could not secure them from being surpris'd by him; He found Means to make himself Master of their Ramparts, that were counted inaccessible: He overthrew their Troops that oppos'd him at his Entrance, took 2 General Officers, with a great Number of other Prisoners, and possess'd himself of several Posts. 'Tis apparent it was not his Fault that the Blow which fail'd

on the Moselle was not struck in Brabant; and that a general Action was not hazarded, which succeeding, might have decided the Fate of the Spanish Netherlands. However the Fruits of his Expedition were, the levelling of the Lines, the putting the Country under Contribution, and the covering of our Frontiers the better by the taking of Leuwe and Sant-Vliet.

The Campaign in Portugal, had a successful Beginning, the Allies took Salvaterra, Sarcas, Valenza de Alcantara, Albuquerque, and the Castle of Marvan; but the principal Project, viz. the Conquest of Badajoz, for which the Earl of Galloway had laid just Measures, miscarried at the End of the Campaign by that General's being unhappily wounded, and by other cross Accidents.

France has kept on the Defensive almost every where, except in Italy, where they exerted their greatest Efforts, because they found the Allies were weakest there. Yet their principal Design, which was to Subdue the Duke of Savoy, fail'd. And their Efforts on that Side, have discover'd their Weakness in Catalonia, which Principality they have lost for want of Forces; though 'tis very probable they might more easily have hinder'd the Allies from coming in, than they can now drive them out.

The Success of the Allies in so speedily reducing the Province of Catalonia to the Obedience of King Charles III. surpass'd all Hope: That Enterprize was the most important that could be form'd for the common Cause; but at the same Time appear'd the most difficult to execute; and yet was gloriously Achiev'd in less Time, than we receiv'd the certain News of it. That Success is the more happy, in that it depended upon several Circumstances that were not within the Disposal of human Wisdom. The carrying Land Forces so long a Voyage, and with them all things necessary for a Siege, was subject to very many Inconveniences, besides the Hazards of the Winds and Sea. The confederate Fleet did not arrive before Barcelona, till after the Duke de Popoli and the Marquis d' Aytona got thither with Succours from Naples. The Garrison wanted little of being as strong as the Besiegers, who had not Men enough to make a Circumvallation about the Place: The Resistance made was very vigorous. Our Troops were repuls'd in the Attack of Mont-Juich, and the Prince of Darmstadt kill'd: A heavy Loss, that might have made the Enterprize fail, but for the firmness of King Charles, the Intrepidity of the Earl of Peterborough, seconded by the hearty zeal of the Admirals, the Valour of the Officers and Troops, and the Affectionate Assistance of the Militia of the Country. The Enemy well inform'd of the Loss of the Prince, were very foward to publish it, but seem'd ignorant of the rest; they talk'd only of our Troops being repuls'd, dishearten'd, and ready to re-embark. Nay they believ'd it so much, that they disarm'd their Ships at Toulon, and thought it sufficient to provide only for the security of their Coasts. The Truth is, while things bore this Prospect, who would have hop'd we should owe to a Bomb the taking of Mont-juich, and in consequence the Surrender of Barcelona, and the Homage paid by the whole Principality for their happy Deliverance?

'Tis to be presum'd the Enemy would have desisted from their Enterprize on Turin which miscarried, to preserve Catalonia which they have lost, if they had not look'd upon the Conquest of that Principality to be impossible, and thought the People too submissive to stir. At least we know the News from Paris and Madrid ran in that Vein of Confidence; and if any Discontent broke out into Commotions, they imputed it to some factious People, to Banditi, or to Conspirators; and cried up the Submission of the People, their Readiness to give Proofs of their Zeal, and to offer Assistance. The Credit the French Ministers have in the Court of Spain, has been so little hid, that it has rather been unnecessarily blaz'd abroad they are the Soul of the Councils, and have the Direction of the Finances and Taxes, and the Disposal of Offices. Certainly it was believ'd the Spaniards would look upon, or at least be compell'd to suffer these things quietly; and that they would patiently see the Interruption of their Commerce with Foreigners; the Trade of the Indies in the Hands of the French, and Factories establish'd by them in America: the Grandees narrowly watch'd, and little Regard had to their Remonstrances: the Innovation of the Seat in the Royal Chapel for the Captain of the Guards: the Imprisonment of the Marquis de Leganez for a pretended Conspiracy: French Garrisons put into Pampelona, St. Sebastian, Fontarabia, &c. But we have seen, that these Grievances and many others, have not only rous'd the ancient Jealousy of the Spanish Nation, but swell'd their Discontent to the Maturity at which it has now burst out.

The mighty Noise the Court of Madrid made of a Conspiracy, in which they involv'd the Marquis de Leganez as principal, was only a Pretence for sending him to France; this is evident by their refusing to make out his Process in Spain, and to have regard to his Privileges of a Grandee. But that Court has now seen in good Earnest, the Discontent of the Nation and of the Grandees break out in several Places, especially in Catalonia where King Charles has found nothing but Walls and his Enemy's Troops to Fight with, and the Hearts of the Inhabitants and People all for him, and dispos'd to acknowledge him as soon as he appear'd to succour them. This advantage may be said to decide the Dispute for the Crown of Spain, on King Charles's side. France, after they had acknowledg'd the Right of the House of Austria by the Treaty of Partition, pretend'd that Right was annull'd by a Will: And to justify that Disposition, they alledg'd the Consent of the People, as a Title that cover'd all. But if their Party have for some time had the Address to make that Treaty an Apple of Discord, and the Credit to lull the Nation asleep, by promising them full Peace and Quietness; they have not been able to hinder their Waking (tho' late) at the Noise of the War into which they have plung'd them, and at the Appearance of a French Government; nor have the Spaniards fail'd to shew their Discontent, upon the first Hope of a Remedy of their Miseries. The Letters from the Military Arm of Catalonia and the Town of Vich, shew what Language the whole Spanish Nation would speak, had they the same Liberty of speaking; and that we need but assist them with sufficient Force, to induce them to embrace their true Interest.

The further Success depends, under God, on our Diligence in opposing the Enemy's Forces. But till Providence declare it self by the Event, we may say it has pointed out the Way the Allies ought to take, to accomplish the great Work of their Deliverance.

We see, that their Union, the Foundation of all, is closer knit by Time, which usually loosens or breaks its Bands. An able Politician has observ'd, that offensive Leagues rarely succeed, especially when the Enterprize is of long Continuance, because of the different Interest of the Confederated Potentates, which alone may disunite them; the Alteration of Affairs and Nations; the Jealousies that may arise, or the Artifices of the Enemy. 'Tis a great Happiness therefore, that the Union not only subsists in the midst of all these Dangers; but that we see Dispositions made at present, in Concert, for greater Efforts; particularly on the Part of the Queen of England, who is the great Band of this Union. While her Generals and Ministers are in all Parts promoting the general Good, while her Majesty omits nothing to unite the Minds of her own Subjects and of her Allies; we see, under her happy Reign, the Reputation and Power of the English Nation augment with their Glory, and Her Majesty's great and just Designs seconded by the Zeal of Her Parliament. It must be own'd, these happy Dispositions are a peculiar Favour from Heaven. And indeed, 'tis most evident we owe to the same Divine Protection the many unexpected Successes, with which the Arms of the Allies have been favour'd since the Beginning of the War. Who could have imagin'd, that when our potent Enemy was on one side Master of Spain, on the other advanc'd to Nimiguen, possess'd of all the places on the Rhine, and extending his Arms to Bavaria, we should in so short a Time see the Mosse, the Rhine, and the Danube freed? The English Generals, in 2 Campaigns, deliver the Empire and Catalonia? And the Electors of Cologne and Bavaria reduc'd to a Retreat into the Netherlands, while Charles III. (whose august House they would have ruin'd) is entred triumphantly into Barcelona?

The Conclusion of this Piece shall be found in our next.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane,
this present Friday, being the 28th of December, will be presented, A Comedy, call'd, The Northern Lass: or, The Nest of Fools. With Singing by Mr. Ramondon and the Boy, and Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier and others.

Never Acted but once.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, this present Friday, being the 28th of December, will be presented, a new Comedy, call'd, the Mistake. These Plays are Sold by J. Knapton at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, and B. Lintott Next Nando's Coffee-House, Temple-Bar.

An Entertainment by Mr. C. CLINCH of BARNET, who imitates the Flute, Double Curtell, the Organ with 3 Voices, the Horn, Huntsman and Pack of Hounds, the German Doctor, the Old Woman, the Drunken Man, the Bells: All Instruments are perform'd by his natural Voice. To be seen this present Evening, at 7 a Clock at the Bear Tavern in Cornhill. Price 1 s.